TL 1767

U.N. DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE MEETS JULY 11

The annual meeting of the United Nations Decolonization Committee (the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples), also known as the Special Committee of 24, will begin at U.N. headquarters in New York on July 11, 1994. The session will last 2-3 weeks. Testimony on East Timor will be heard on July 12 and 13.

East Timor is one of the principal items on the agenda of this committee, which will prepare reports for the General Assembly. As in previous years, supporters of East Timorese self-determination from all over the world will present petitions. In both 1992 and 1993, over twenty petitioners presented the Committee with a wide range of information and recommendations on the situation in East Timor. There is a strong need for more statements from Third World Countries, especially those in ASEAN.

Last year, the following people presented statements:

- Jose Amorim Dias, National Council of Maubere Resistance
- Dan Heap, MP, Parliamentarians for East Timor, Canada
- Charles Scheiner, East Timor Action Network, United States
- Carmel Budiardjo, Indonesian Human Rights Campaign - Tapol, UK
- John M. Miller, Agir pour Timor, France
- Curt Georing, Amnesty International
- Claudia D'Andrea, Asia Watch
- Richard Koch, Komite Indonesia; East Timor Group Holland
- Roger Clark, International League for Human Rights
- Pedro Pinto Leite, International Platform of Jurists for East Timor
- Sharon Scharfe, East Timor Alert Network, Canada
- Ana Correa da Silva, CDPM, Portugal
- Jose Luis Guterres, Fretilin
- Thomas S. Mahedy, Pax Christi International
- Carmel Budiardjo, British Coalition for East Timor
- Kan Akatani, Free East Timor Japan Coalition and Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace
- Mark Salzer, Catholic Institute for International Relations, UK
- Four members of the Portuguese parliament

Any organization, whether or not it is registered with the UN, can present testimony. Statements are presented orally, and also be submitted in writing for the interpreters. They must be in one of the official UN Languages.

If your group would like to present a petition (try to keep it to 15 minutes or shorter), you must fax or write the chairman of the committee **now**. If you want to make a statement but cannot send a representative to New York, someone from the East Timor Action Network/US can read your petition (in English) to the Committee. Please let us know as soon as possible.

Below is a sample letter to ask to be put on the list to speak. Don't follow this exactly, but be equally to the point. Feel free to ask Charlie Scheiner or ETAN/US for clarification if there is anything you do not understand.

ETAN and IFET will help provide housing for overseas visitors who need it, and we will be arranging some meetings and hospitality. Please let us know (fax +1-914-428-7383) if you are coming to New York for the meeting.

---

sample letter

Chairman, Special Committee of 24
United Nations
New York, New York 10017 USA
By fax to (212)963-4037

Dear Sir:

The East Timor Action Network/United States would like to present a petition to the Special Committee at your session this July. Our petition will discuss human rights and self-determination for the people of East Timor.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,